

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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BLACK CAUCUS CONDEMNS ATTACKS ON I.U. PRESIDENT HERBERT

The following is a statement issued by the Chairman of the Indiana Black Legislative Caucus, State Rep. Greg Porter (D-Indianapolis) and State Rep. Vernon G. Smith (D-Gary):

The Indiana Black Legislative Caucus believes the recent attacks against Indiana University President Adam Herbert are unfair. We believe Dr. Herbert's record is exemplary in many areas and that his accomplishments should be acknowledged.

President Herbert has been visible to lawmakers in the Indiana General Assembly from his very first week at Indiana University. He has been inclusive of state legislators from both political parties, which is a benefit to Indiana University since we play an integral role in the university's future. We have had the opportunity to see President Herbert's outstanding success in sponsored research, gifts to the university and his efforts to make I.U.'s mission statement into a physical reality. In addition, he has shown a sincere interest in minority procurement.

The issues raised against President Herbert have been frivolous, especially the charge that he has not been visible. It has been our experience that Dr. Herbert has attended more activities and been in more meetings with high ranking public officials and community leaders than any of his predecessors. At times it would seem that he was everywhere singing the praises of Indiana University, which he obviously has come to love since he moved to our state.

The question arises as to if Dr. Herbert is being treated as fairly as Indiana University presidents before him. Race should never be an issue. However, President Herbert, as an African-American, has provided a great role model for young black men and women. He has shown that a dedication to education, hard work and perseverance has its rewards for everyone, including people of color. Dr. Herbert has blazed a path for other African-Americans in academia and his achievement should be recognized and acclaimed.

Before condemning this man of integrity and letters, look at his entire record and what he has accomplished already on behalf of Indiana University. The issue is not whom the next chancellor will be or when she or he will be hired, but rather the issue is the reputation of a man and his future.

Fairness, decency and respect are what we ask for President Herbert. Please offer him the honor and esteem bestowed upon those who have served as president before him at Indiana University.